

# THE SOUTHERN CROSS

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Special Christmas Issue

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## "CHRISTMAS"

"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."

## GREETINGS!

To the thousands of Lutherans scattered throughout the length and breadth of British Guiana, The Southern Cross sends its Christmas Greetings. Whether this paper reaches you on the rivers or in the villages, in town or in country, let us all be reminded, once again, that we are all united in Him the Babe of Bethlehem. May the love and joy which filled the hearts of the shepherds, be ours today and always. God bless you all!

## OUR HEARTS ARE OPEN WIDE

Our hearts tonight are open wide;  
The grudge, the grief are laid aside;  
The path and porch are swept of  
snow,

The doors unlatched; the heart  
stones glow;

No visitor can be denied.  
All tender human homes must hide  
Some wistfulness beneath their  
pride;

Compassionate and humble grow  
Our hearts tonight.

Let empty chair and cup abide.  
Who knows? Some well-remembered  
stride.

May come as once so long ago;

Then welcome, be it friend or foe.  
There is no anger can divide  
Our hearts tonight.

Christopher Morley

## NEWS FROM THE LUTHER LEAGUES

### Ebenezer Luther League

The Volley ball team of the Senior Luther League made two tours during the last term. The team traveled to Georgetown on Monday, November 7th and played in a tournament organised by Pastor Hansen of the Calvary team.

The Ebenezer team reached the finals against the Calvary team. Calvary defeated us two straight games then the rejuvenated Ebenezer team fought back to win two games. A fifth game was then played for the championship—Calvary winning a close game by a score of 21-19. Other teams participating were Epiphany, and Bradmore—a Georgetown town team.

December 3rd the team journeyed to Skeldon to play the Skeldon Luther League team. The tour was organised by Rolland Munro and Mr. Chung. The Ebenezer Luther Leaguers won the first two games, then dropped the next two. Again, as in Georgetown, they found themselves playing a closely contested fifth game for the championship. This time the Ebenezerites came out on the victorious end by a score of 22-20. The Skeldonians served refreshments

Contd. on Page 10.

# THE BERBICE RIVER PARISH

PASTOR H.C. MAGALEE

**ATONEMENT, Ebeni Catechist H. Rajabally.** The aroma of freshly baked bread and cakes on Saturday and the coming and going of women and children clearly told that the next day was going to be something special and it was. The Festival of Harvest was celebrated in fine weather, fine attendances, inspiring services and programmes.

During the Service of Holy Communion Mr. Augustus Smith was received into membership by the rite of Confirmation and there were two baptisms. The children had brought many pots of fern and blooming flowers and these, together with gracefully formed palm-arches, made an imposing appearance.

At 3 o'clock in the afternoon, Catechist and Mrs. Rajabally presented the children in a splendid program of song, and recitations and short exercises. The children did exceedingly well and every parent felt proud and pleased.

The evening brought a pleasant surprise. The older ladies many of whom had never before participated in a programme presented a very fine pageant. They were attired in colourful costumes and did their parts with distinction. Motion pictures were afterwards projected.

On Monday, sixteen men assembled on the compounds and working from 8 in the morning to 4 p.m. did a splendid job of planting posts and stretching wire to half the area of our compounds. This job must continue from week to week until the entire 10 acres are safely enclosed.

**Government Aid for Schools**—The good news has just been received that our schools has been placed under Regulation 93 of the Education Code to receive Government Aid as from January 1, 1956. We are grateful to the Education Department for this recognition and rejoice with the parents and children of Atonement. This school was established just over two years ago and at that time had an enrolment of only 16. Today it has grown to 35

and is making a wonderful contribution in the education of our children and also to the general welfare of the Community.

**MT OLIVET, Kwakwani.**—Catechist Nathan Roup. The first wedding that took place in the little riverside Chapel at Kwakwani was that of the grand-daughter of Councilman and Mrs. Theodore Phillips, Miss Hyacinth Alleyne. She was joined in Holy Wedlock to Mr Vivian Dowers. The Chapel was filled to overflowing and Miss Shirley Andrews from Reformation Church presided at the organ. After the ceremony an enjoyable reception was held at the new home of the bride and bridegroom. We wish this young couple many years of Christian joy and happiness.

Catechist Roup, still being sick, Headteacher Budhu with Mr. Thomas Frederick and Mr. Terrence Abrams took full charge of the preparations for Harvest. They did an exceedingly good job. The service was held at 3 p.m. and in evening a pageant and cantata was presented. This programme held the interest of the packed audience from beginning to end. The pageant was presented in a very unique manner and the rendition of the Cantata was excellent.

On Monday evening there was not even standing space for the showing of some motion pictures.

**ST. PAUL, Maria Henrietta**—Catechist C.J. Duggin. In spite of the fact that so many of our men-folk are still in the timber grants, the festival of Harvest was observed with an unusually good attendance.

The failure of crops resulted in not too many gifts but babies, this year, seemed to have made up for the shortage. Seven little ones were presented for baptism the largest number on any one occasion. Mr. Esau Sauers was received into full membership by Confirmation and Mrs. Helen Jackson and Mr. Joseph Dover by transfer.

In the evening, under the direction of Miss Martha Walker, a fine pageant and recitations were presented. The Church was again filled to overflowing and the children performed exceedingly well. Mr.



Colvin Vandenburg and Mr. Dennis Hartman were complimented for their fine memory work. The projection of motion pictures then brought the evening's programme to a close.

On Monday, another large gathering assembled on the compounds to watch a cricket match played by St. Paul School boys against a team from Mt. Hermon. Everyone anticipated a "walk over" for St. Paul because of the small stature of the Mt. Hermonites. But not so! The match turned out to be one that was full of excitement and excellent play. Assistant teachers Mr. Budram Fauder and Miss Judith LaFleur escorted the Mt. Hermon Eleven which was led by Captain Stanley Adolph.

The Umpires were Mr. William Reece and Mr. Harold Hartman. Guiding the St. Paul Team was Captain Dennis Hartman. He and his men were first to bat and in the first inning accumulated 53 runs before their last wicket fell. The Mt. Hermonites replied with a gallant effort but the small men could only realize 30. St. Paul was then leading by 23 runs. After lunch St. Paul again began to bat and there was great excitement when Ulic France, Thomas James and George Williams began tumbling down the stumps one after the other and got the whole team out for 35. The Mt. Hermonites then went in to bat - they would need to make 59 runs to win and the fellows seemed confident. The St. Paul team, however, was grim and determined. Twice before they had been licked by these fellows and they were determined that it should not happen again. Dennis Hartman, Bradley Duncan, and Sigmond Grovesnor's bowling kept the batting in check and when the final wicket fell the total scores were: St. Paul 88 Mt. Hermon 64 — a clear victory for St. Paul by 24 runs! We congratulate St. Paul.

In the evening a very enjoyable social was held in the school hall. Music was supplied by a band from Mr. Vandenburg's Grant and the good and faithful ladies of St. Paul prepared and served aerated drinks, ginger beer and cakes.

**REFORMATION, Kimbia.** Catechist Kyte Ramessar.—

The engagement of our assistant teacher Miss Shirley Andrews, has been announced. The little function took place at Kwakwani on Saturday, October 30 when her beau, Mr Veral Gordon, presented her with an engagement ring. We wish the couple every good wish.

We regret to announce the passing of Mr. William Morris, a councilman of the Church. Mr. Morris had only been sick for a few weeks and when his condition worsened he was taken to hospital in New Amsterdam. For the first two days he seemed to have been recovering but then made a change for the worse and at 5 o'clock on the afternoon of October 27 he quietly passed away.

His body was brought to Kimbia and his friends and relatives filled the Church on Saturday morning for the funeral service after which interment was made not far from the family home.

Mr. Morris' passing leaves us rich memories of a devout and loyal life. He was a good father and husband and a councilman that was always attentive to his Church duties. He leaves behind him his wife Elizabeth and children Hector, Wilford, Albert, Cecil and Zephine whom we commend to the Lord of Life and Glory.

**GRACE, DeVelde.** Catechist James F. Munroe.

We regret to report the death of Mr. Edmund Gladstone which occurred in the Public Hospital on Friday afternoon, November 18. He had been ailing for several months before but was admitted to hospital only a few days prior to his death. He submitted to an abdominal operation on Friday and passed away the same afternoon as a result of cancer in the liver. Together with his wife, he received the Lord's Supper before the operation and was cheerful and confident for the future.

The corpse left for DeVelde, by launch on Saturday morning at 9. a.m. together with a group of about twenty relatives. The trip was an awful one. The launch broke down a little above Mara and drifted amidst very rough waters until 11 p.m. Saturday when they were picked up and towed by a tug. The party arrived at Grace Church about

3 a.m. and interment took place immediately with Catechist Munro conducting the service.

The Festival of Harvest was observed on November 27, and inspite of some inclement weather everyone engaged in a full day of activities. Catechist Munro presented a class of twelve young men and women for the rite of confirmation and it was a glorious thing to hear these fine young people pledge their allegiance to Christ their Lord. They were:- Miriam Leps, Loretta Lindie, Wavney Harris, Antonitta Leps, Rhonie Kurtzious, Elen Leps, Anrim Lindie, Stanford Leps, Eton Gladstone, Egan Leps and Winston Leps.

The Children's Service was lead by Miss Theresa Gomes and Mrs. Magalee gave the address.

In the evening the choir rendered a beautiful anthen and Mrs. W. S. Persram of New Amsterdam was introduced. After Mrs. Persram spoke, motion pictures were shown.

**ST. MARK, Ma Retraite.** We regret to announce the death of Mrs. Jane Mars wife of Councilman Fitzpatrick Mars. The death occurred after a prolonged illness in Georgetown on October 18. The funeral service was conducted by Pastor Hansen at Epiphany Church, Albouystown and was very well attended.

Mrs. Mars was a devout and faithful Christian lady who spent her whole life in the interest of others. She will be grievously missed by her family whom we commend the love of Jesus Christ. A memorial service was held at St. Mark on Sunday, November 27 at which Catechist Clarke was liturgist, Councilman Daphness gave the obituary.

The Festival of Harvest was observed on November 20. The little chapel was beautifully decorated and the new altar rails and kneelers added to the dignity of the chancel.

Following the Service of Holy Communion, members of the Talitha Cumi Circle of Ebenezer Church presented a pageant at 2 p.m. At the same time members of the

choir sang anthems and solos while recitations were said by the children.

In the evening, moving pictures were shown to a very appreciative audience.

The Church Council and ladies of St. Mark must be thanked for the fine way they entertained their guests. Everything went on in an orderly manner and there was good Christian fellowship throughout the day.

**ST. CATHERINE, Fearn.** The Government self-help programme at Fearn is gathering into strides and already the village has been relieved of floods. The people gave free labour in digging drains and the government has matched their labour—dollar for dollar in materials for Kokers, barbed wire and other sea defence material.

They are now engaged in another cooperative effort. A portion of the jungle has been cleared and under the supervision of the Superintendent of Agriculture they will plant citrus. They have been promised 100 orange plants free of cost. In order to improve the breed of chickens all the roosters in the village will be sold and replaced with rhode-islands.

Harvest, as in past years, was a big success. Dispenser Johnson presided at the organ for the Service of Holy Communion and in the afternoon under the direction of Catechist Roup the choir presented a splendid concert. Mrs. Roup trained and presented a pageant and recitations by the children and the Vincent and Stratton girls and Sumintra Ganpatsingh from New Amsterdam added to the programme with their lovely singing. Teacher Benn presided at the concert and he gave the artists generous credit for their fine performance.

In the evening, motion pictures were shown and the events for the day came to a close.

The Church Council lead by Mr. Kesney together with the ladies did everything possible to entertain and make their guests welcome.



**Important Visitors in the Parish** In connection with the various Self-help Schemes taking place in certain localities of our Parish we had the honour of having with us Dr. Theo L. Vaughn, Community Development Adviser of the U.S. Operations Missions, Mr. Lawrence Thompson, District Commissioner, Berbice; Mr. L. Gordon, Commissioner for Cooperatives; Mr R. Dowden, Cooperative Officer, Berbice and Mr. L. Ernest Dow, Divisional Forestry Officer. The first inspection was made of operations at the DeVelde Logging Co-operative Society and the Grace Consumers Cooperative. In the evening there was a packed school hall and our people listened with wrapt attention to the splendid addresses given by our guests.

The next evening a similar meeting was held at Reformation School Hall, Kimbia On Wednesday it was Mt. Hermon's turn and on Thursday, there was a combined meeting of the Ituni and Wakamukru folk at Mt. Carmel School Room.

At each of these points stellings with bonds and shops will be built by the efforts of the people together with substantial assistance from government. Already, Mt. Carmel has gone very far with its projects. Under the determined and vigorous leadership of Catechist Blair the stelling and bond are well on their way to completion and the Consumers shop building is already raised. Plans for these projects were drawn by the Engineer of the Public Works Department and their attractive design will greatly enhance the appearance of our compounds. The people of Mt. Hermon and Reformation are now at work collecting their materials and Grace will start their work in January. We are very grateful to the government and its officers for their interest in our welfare.

## BUXTON PARISH

AUBREY R. BOWEN

**HOLY COMMUNION, Victoria** Catechist F. B. Miller

Harvest Festival came off on Sunday, November 13, 1955. There was a large gathering in attendance, composed mostly of young people. Miss Jennie Baynes officiated at the organ. On the second

sunday of each month she plays for us. We are very thankful for her kind services.

The Luther Leaguers held a concert in the afternoon.

### Luther League.

Officer-bearers recently elected are as follows—

Martin Bristol —President  
Claudette Marks—Vice President  
Sheila Tiwari —Secretary-treasurer

**Messiah Non Pariel** Catechist D.J. Ramdeholl.

Official delegates to the Luther League Convention at Sandhills, Demerara River were Vice-President John Balgobin, and Secretary Ronald Mohabir.

The recent business meeting of the League resulted in the election of the following as office bearers:—

Harry Persaud —President  
Mavis Grandison —Vice president  
Phillip D. Ramnauth—Secretary  
Kimraj Assistant Secretary

They were accordingly installed by the pastor A.R. Bowen on Sunday September 25, 1955.

Harvest Festival came off fairly successful on Sunday October 23, 1955. The Sunday School Programme was held during the night and the large gathering extended to the streets.

The congregation was overjoyed at seeing the results of the seed that was sown in the long past. It has taken some time to grow, but while the growth has been slow, it seems as though it has been also sure.

Through the medium of the Southern Cross, we desire to express our most sincere gratitude to Mr. Thomas Singh for having granted permission to hold our Church and Sunday School service under his house.

**Bee Hive.**—Although Trained Lay-Reader Harry Persaud has not fully recovered, activities here have not lessened. Because of the convenience afforded by

the 9 a.m. service at Holy Communion Victoria, Catechist Miller is able to proceed to Bee Hive, hold Sunday School and Vespers and return to complete his schedule at Victoria.

The Sunday School scholars are now in course of preparation in a small way for the Festival of Harvest.

## THE WEST COAST BERBICE PARISH

PASTOR F. LELAND INGALLS

**Upper East Coast Bethany**—Lutheran Church reached a climax in her life when it had its Harvest Program on November 27th. Eight new members were received into the fellowship and the congregation is now almost 100% in its Apportionment, only \$30.00 remains. The congregation received three new pews which have been made by the members. The life of the congregation is becoming more vital and dedicated to their Church.

**Bethlehem Preaching Point**—With the new members received at Harvest the small group now has twenty members and is striving to attain congregational status. The place of worship remains crowded in the home of a member. It is hoped that a piece of land can soon be found and the members want to erect a temporary chapel themselves.

**Augsburg Preaching Point**.—Mr. P. Kanha.

Harvest here on November 21st. was a huge success, thanks to the residents of Burma Scheme. Attendance for the Church service and Sunday School program was estimated to be 120, and offering amounted to a little over ninety-dollars. Twelve partook of the Lord's Supper, including nine new members.

The total membership of this Point is now twelve adults and nineteen children, and offerings for the year to November 30th including Harvest, amounted to a little over \$190.00

**Christ Lutheran Church**—We welcome back Catechist Singh who has been sick for over a month. The School enrollment

has jumped from 65 pupils to 95 students. We also wish to extend a word of welcome to Mrs. Persaud a new assistant teacher for the Primary division.

Our Harvest Program for the children on Saturday, November 26th was well attended and the Church service the following day found 35 of our members communing, which has been the best this year.

**Hope Lutheran Church**—In spite of threatening rains the chapel was filled to capacity and people had to stand outside for the service. In the evening, the Children's program found the Church again filled with people crowded all around the building, standing solidly on both the front and back steps. People were also standing in the Church yard unable to get in. It was amusing to see some of the younger fellows perched on the palm trees trying to see in. The Pastor, who arrived late after a Harvest Service at Augsburg, was unable to get inside the Church.

**Advent Lutheran Church**—A successful Harvest was witnessed at Armadale with a packed Sunday School program. The Adult Class of the Sunday School put on a pageant. The offerings were nearly 60.00 dollars.

**Faith Lutheran Church**—Catechist Persaud was installed at the Harvest Service on December 4th. We wish to extend a welcome to Catechist Premchand Persaud who assumed duties of Faith and Resurrection Lutheran Church on December 1st. Mr. Persaud also will handle Bath Settlement Sunday School.

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**—This year the men took over all the preparations of Harvest even to the cleaning, and scrubbing of the Church, and decorations. They did a splendid job. The offerings for the Harvest were over 90.00 dollars. The Church was filled with flower decorations, padi, and many other gifts.

We wish to thank Students Jaipersaud and Toteram who have served the needs while the two congregations were without a catechist.



This small group celebrated Harvest on November 20th and was able to present a thankoffering of over 60.00 dollars for the service. The children presented an excellent program and play on the First Fruits celebrated by the Jews. The costuming added to the impressiveness of their presentation.

### **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Blairmont Sunday School**

Good Shepherd, the second largest congregation on the West Coast has reached 100% of its apportionment when combined with the preaching Point of Nazareth under its wing. The Luther League continues its active program and example of leadership to the rest of the leagues on the West Coast. Blairmont Sunday Schools presented a fine program. Plans are underway to relocate Church Square Sunday School in the rapidly growing Ithaca Settlement area.

It is commendable to note that the West Coast Parish will no longer be decreasing in membership. On behalf of the workers of the Church in the West Coast, the Pastor wishes all a blessed Christmas season and happy New Year.

### **CANJE & LOWER BERBICE RIVER PARISH**

**H.C. MAGALEE & G. GORDON PARKER,**  
PASTORS

**St. Thomas Lochaber**  
Catechist Krishen Persaud

Sunday November 6 was observed as our Harvest Thanksgiving Day. At the morning service five new members were added to the congregation through Confirmation and by transfer. During this service a beautiful communion set was dedicated. This is a gift to the congregation from Dr. Parker's family in the U.S.A. in memory of their mother. The catechist and congregation want to say a very sincere thank you to this family.

In spite of some damage to the crops due to inclement weather our Harvest this year was better than the past years. The receipts totaled \$150.39 of which

\$63.23 was given in cash offerings. This is a sure sign that the members are really growing in Christian stewardship. This fine Harvest offering made it possible for us to pay our "Self Support" apportionment of \$326.00 in full.

On Monday evening November, 7, the children of the Sunday School presented a fine Harvest Concert which featured the pageant **The Magic Touch**. We are indebted to our lady missionary, Miss Elaine Wagner, and to Mrs. Parker who assisted in teaching the children some new songs for the occasion.

### **TRANSFIGURATION. Betsy Ground Catechist Harold Kowlessar,**

Our Harvest Festival was held on November 20th. The attendance was 199 and the offering totalled \$120.00. In the evening the Sunday School children presented a Harvest Program and Pageant which were well attended. For the past quarter our church membership has increased by 12 Baptisms, 2 Confirmations and four members received otherwise. A beautiful communion set has been purchased from funds of the congregation and was dedicated on Harvest Sunday.

A large church bell costing \$200.00 has been purchased by the congregation with the generous assistance of Mr. and Mrs. James A. Sukhu. Now the congregation has undertaken the task of raising \$150. for the construction of a bell tower in which to hang the bell. A pledge system has been initiated through which our members have agreed to pledge a certain sum each month for six months. The members have given their whole-hearted support to this project and it is expected that the money will be raised by March 1956. We hope that the bell and tower can be dedicated on Easter morning and that its chime will be heard on that occasion. It will be the first church bell ever to ring in the Betsy Ground community.

The catechist is spreading his efforts farther afield and has organized a Sunday school at canefield, about 2 miles from Betsy Ground. Already there are 28 children on the roll. We must extend our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ramowtar for per-

mitting us to use their "bottom house" for carrying on this work.

Since the beginning of this quarter the Luther League has shown impressive growth. The appointment to our parish of Miss Elaine Wagner, the first Lady Missionary we have been privileged to have, has been a real inspiration to our Women's League and Sunday School. Her frequent visits to the district are very much appreciated. Another stimulation to our congregation has been the membership of Mr. Cyril Chu of New Amsterdam in the Lutheran Laymen's Movement for Stewardship of the United Lutheran Church in America. We are proud of his fine work and we hope that others in the Lutheran Church in British Guiana will follow his example and spirit.

At the beginning of the new school year Mr. Kenneth H. Birbalsingh was appointed headteacher of Transfiguration Lutheran School to succeed Mr. James A. Sukhu. Other new appointments are Mr. Roland Munro, transferred from St. Mary School, and Miss Veda Kawal who is serving as interim teacher. The number on the roll is now 315. The School has done exceedingly well in the recent examinations in which 6 pupils have passed the Public School Certificate and 2 pupils teachers have been successful in the Pupil Teacher's Examination. The Junior Luther League which is attached to the school is doing well. Volley ball has been introduced in the program. The manager Dr. Parker, pays regular monthly visits of inspection to the school. Plans are afoot to enclose the back part of the compound so that it can be used for a playing field. A Cooperative Society is attached to the school and several of the pupils avail themselves of the opportunities offered. The children are also given the opportunities of using books from the New Amsterdam Public Library through the extension service offered by Miss Edith Pieters, Librarian.

## THE LOWER COURANTYNE PARISH

PASTOR E. B. MEYER (Act'g)

**St. James** This congregation is suffering greatly for want of a regular place

of worship. We have been moving from place to place. Recently the church has purchased a piece of property in Whim, this will be a great asset to the work, when it is fixed, and we are able to move over into our own place.

Harvest thanksgiving service was held on November 27, 1955. The offerings this year was double of that which we had received last year with, the same membership. Last year's offering was \$34.00 This years, was \$69.14.

The Sunday School presented their program immediately after the service.

Plans have been made to go around in the district singing carols.

Three men and one woman have been elected to serve on the church council beginning January 1, 1956. They are Messrs Permaul Rajgopal, David Whitlingum, Hilton Gopie, and Nurse Stella Mitchell. They will receive a course of instruction as to their duties from Pastor Meyer before they are installed.

**St. Stephen** A beautifully decorated church aided the members in worshipping with the real spirit of thanksgiving on November 20, 1955. At this service church council members were elected. They are as follows: Messrs P.C. Shrikisoon, Ramnarace Baichoo, Miss Beldora Grant, and Mrs. Suckhia Ramcharran.

The church is gradually growing and there is a dire need for a church. The building in which we are now worshipping is being repaired and painted, and a side door is being built by the kind generosity of Mrs. Stella Kennard.

The Sunday School presented their Harvest Program on November 21. The members of the Sunday School also helped in decorating and cleaning the church for the Harvest Services

The Luther Leaguers are now using a new book which tells about the responsibilities of a Luther Leaguer.



The newly elected League officers are: President Chibram Samaroo; Vice President Lalgit Bachan; Secretary Bridgbassie Samaroo; Assistant Secretary Lynette Sookloo; Treasurer R.C. Shrikisson; Advisor Edward J. Persaud.

**St. Luke** Harvest Service was held at St. Luke in a nicely decorated church on November 27, 1955. After the Harvest service the following members were elected as church council members for the following year, Messrs. Milton Mangal, Charles Drepaul, Misses Janette Drepaul, and Louisa Richardam.

Immediately after the Harvest Service the Sunday School presented their program. It was well received by all the members and visitors. The Sunday School also helped to decorate and clean the church for the worship services.

An attempt is being made to reorganize the Luther League of St. Luke. We hope and pray that by next year we will be functioning and have a program going in full swing.

## THE NEW AMSTERDAM PARISH

PASTOR E. B. MEYER & E. WAGNER,  
LADY MISSIONDRY

**Ebenezer** Ebenezer Lutheran Church experienced another fruitful Harvest on Sunday, November 13, 1955. The day began with a 5 a.m. Communion service followed by a 9 a.m. Worship service. The Sunday School presented their gifts of thanksgiving during a short program in the afternoon. At the 7 p.m. service the pageant "Ruth and Naomi" was presented by the Talitha Cumi, the young girl's organization of Ebenezer, under the able direction of our Parish Worker Miss Olive Staeman.

The church was not only able to gather in a large quantity of produce to give to our needy, but it was also able to set two new records. The first was receiving \$370.30 at the three services and the second was a record attendance of 620 at

the 7.00 p.m. service. We at Ebenezer feel that the Lord has truly blessed us this Harvest season.

Since the pageant "Ruth and Naomi" was so well received at Ebenezer the girls were asked by Pastor Magalee to take it up the river to Mara the following Sunday. This was a wonderful opportunity for our girls and they enjoyed having the chance to bring a small portion of God's word to these fellow Christians.

With the Christmas season in the foreground all of our organizations are making plans for Christmas programs, food baskets for the needy, caroling, and parties. It is well that all are planning early for the coming of our Saviour.

Another page was written in the history of Ebenezer, when, on October 2, 1955, Pastor Edward B. Meyer was installed as her Pastor.

Since then, Pastor Meyer and his charming wife have shown their ableness into the life and work of the congregation. Already, they have won the love and respect of the congregation. Pastor Meyer's "True To Life," "Soul Inspiring" messages touched many a heart.

**Sunday School** The Sunday School has been making steady progress under the of Mr. Stanley Alonzo. We congratulate Mr. Alonzo and his faithful band of teachers.

**Luther League** The enrollment of the League reached an amount where it was found necessary to divide the League into two groups, a Senior and a Junior Luther League. The officers of the Junior League are: Mr. Kenneth Jahoor President, Miss Claire Bowen Vice-President, Miss Vincent Secretary, Mr. Hector Chu Treasurer.

**Miss O. Steaman** It would be a miss if the name of Parish Worker Olive Steaman was not mentioned. Miss Steaman continues to be the live wire of the congregation.

**Miss Elaine Wagner**—last but not least the name of Lady Missionary Elaine Wagner, appears on the horizon. After not having a Lady Missionary these many years, it is somewhat difficult for some of us to realize that a Lady Missionary has been assigned to the New Amsterdam Parish. We are fortunate in having Miss Wagner assigned to our Parish. With her wealth of experience, her zeal and devotion, we know what an asset she would be to our Parish. As she commences her third term of service, we wish her good and pray God's Blessings upon her work.

In closing we want to express our appreciation and thanks to all at Ebenezer for the fine Spirit of Co-operation given during the year. We take this opportunity to wish you all the joys and blessings this Happy Christmas Season and may they remain with you throughout the coming year.

**St. Timothy**—St. Timothy worshiped in a beautifully decorated church for their Harvest Service on Sunday, November 6 1955. The service was well attended and many gifts were given to the glory of God.

The Sunday School presented their program at a 4.00 p.m. Service. Besides their Harvest program awards were given for perfect attendance to the deservicing class. The boy's class won this year.

Many plans and preparations are being made for Christmas and all the organizations are busy at work. Let us remember that a busy church is a growing church.

**Contd. from page 1**

following the game. Before returning home the team took a dip at No. 63 beach.

The all Luther team from Ebenezer was represented by (1) Roland Munro (2) Cletus Bowen (3) Basil Munro (4) Vincent George (5) Pastor Meyer (6) Andrew Bowen (7) Clifford Munro

## NEWS FROM THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S LEAGUES.

**ST. JOHN'S, WILLIAMSBURG**

During the past term we have been studying the Women of the Old Testa-

ment, and for this season we are studying the book "Whatever you do," and are enjoying it very much as it is very inspiring. I am certain that the studying of this book will help us be better stewards in our future lives.

We are having a series of cottage meetings in the homes of members.

We were happy to stage a pageant, "Ruth and Naomi" at our Harvest Festivals. It was largely attended.

We are working very hard towards our objective of the old people's home with our Thank-Offering Boxes.

## EBENEZER, NEW AMSTERDAM

Ebenezer's Women's League celebrated their 21st anniversary with special service on Wednesday, October 12, 1955. The chairman was Mrs. Gordon Parker and the guest speaker was Miss Ruth Zartman. Greetings and congratulations were brought from the organisations of Ebenezer and other women's organisations of neighboring congregations to the League at this service. A letter of congratulation from Miss Estelle Jones was read. Miss Jones, once a faithful member, is now bedridden, but she always remembers the the League's anniversary. A report of the League's activities during the year was read by Mrs. Bowen, League secretary.

The Women's League held their anniversary Party on Friday, October 14. The women spent the evening playing games and enjoying the fellowship of each other. The president of the league welcomed the new pastor and his wife, Rev. and Mrs. E. B. Meyer, after which Miss Ruth Zartman led the group in a hymn-sing. The party came to a close with refreshments, at which time the foundation members of the League cut the birthday cake.

For their Christmas activities the women are planning food baskets for the needy, a carol sing, and a party.

## TRANSFIGURATION BESTY GROUND

A pageant, The Secret of Christmas, will be presented by the Women's League with the help of the children on Christmas night

## NAZARETH, MON CHOSI

The Women's League presented the pageant "With Thankful Hearts" the



First Anniversary service of their church. This League is new, and is quite busy in many activities. They have furnished the violet and green altar hangings. The church members are buying furniture for their church.

## SKELDON PARISH

REV. G. GORDON PARKER (Acting Pastor)

The Skeldon Parish has been without a resident pastor for a year and a half. In spite of this grave handicap the work has been continuing but progress has been slow. Much credit must be given to the faithful catechists who serve the congregations and preaching points along the upper Corentyne Coast. The empty parsonage at the Skeldon High School compound is a constant reminder of the acute need for a resident pastor here. We pray that early in the year 1956 a pastor will be sent for this important and promising work.

**Skeldon Lutheran High School** Rudolph Woo-Chung Acting Principal. The Skeldon Lutheran High School has deeply felt the loss of the Principal, Mr. Robert Beharry, who had resigned in order to study in a Theological Seminary in the United States. Mr. Beharry left the school at the end of September and is now enrolled in the Lutheran Seminary in Berkley, California. The new principal from the United States will be Mr. Edgar Menzies who is expected to arrive with his wife in February. Until that time Mr. Rudolph Woo-Chung is serving as acting principal. Sincere appreciation is offered to Mr. Chung and the teachers who are carrying on during this period.

The new high school building was started in September and is expected to be completed by June. Messrs S.A. Nabi and Sons, the contractors, have been somewhat handicapped by the difficulty in getting building materials and by the rainy weather. The imported steel and asbestos roof have arrived in the Colony from England and is ready for use. The entire community is watching the progress of this building with great interest.

**Nativity Church, Crabwood Creek.** J.A. Ramlochan, Catechist. Nativity congrega-

tion celebrated the Harvest Festival on November 27th. Four children were received by Baptism at the morning service. The Harvest Program and Pageant were presented in the evening to a capacity audience. A generous offering and twelve and a half bags of padi were received. This enabled the congregation to pay \$155. or 122 percent of Self Support apportionment.

**Emmanuel Church, Skeldon** — Oscar Teekasingh, Catechist. Emmanuel congregation had its Harvest Festival on November 27th. Some of the students were not able to attend because they were in Georgetown to write high School examinations. We are thankful for a half bag of sugar which we received from the management of Pln. Skeldon. This congregation has paid 87% of its self-support apportionment.

**St. Philips Springlands.** — Oscar Teekasingh, Catechist. St Philip congregation had a successful Harvest Festival in spite of threatening weather. Two young people were received by confirmation. The Luther League here is a very active organization and forms the backbone of the congregation. This group is looking forward to the time when it can have its own place of worship.

**St. Matthias, No. 68 Village (Carnarvon)** Edward Muchunlall, Catechist. — St. Matthias had a very success Harvest, Festival on November 20th. Three adults were received by confirmation. Following the service a Harvest Program was presented which showed very great improvement in the work of the children of this young church. St. Matthias now has 19 communicant members so is still classed as a preaching point and not a congregation. Even though it had no apportionment for Self Support this group has paid \$65 00 to the Church.

**St. Barnabas, Bengal** — A.T. Williams Catechist. St. Barnabas is another preaching point. The Harvest Festival was held here on December 4th and one child was received by Baptism. During the year a nursery school has been opened by the Catechist.

and we hope that soon there will be a Junior School recognized by the government at this point. St Barnabas had no Self-Support apportionment but has paid \$37.00 to this fund.

The Parish has been able to pay its apportionment in full thanks to the assistance of the two preaching points.

## CHRISTMAS IN MANY LANDS

Fling wide, O World, 'tis Christmas!  
Ring out, wild bells, the glad tidings of  
Christmas.....for all mankind. Peace  
on earth to men of good will!

In America, Christmas is observed in the churches by candle-light services; by mysterious visits of Santa Claus, and by gift-laden Christmas trees. Carolers make house to house rounds on Christmas Eve, and families read Dickens' Christmas carols about the home hearth.

In England, carols are sung at early Christmas morning, and the Yule log is lighted and kept burning throughout the Christmas season. Christmas day is Home Day with the traditional plum pudding and gay festivities.

In Norway and Sweden they put straw around the Christmas tree to represent the Stable where Christ was born, then feed the straw to the animals and put out a sheaf of wheat for the birds. Torches are carried, accompanied by musicians, and gifts are given to the worthy poor.

In the Netherlands, France and Spain, the children set out their wooden shoes instead of hanging up their stockings. Some fill them with straw and then go to church. When they return the reindeer have eaten the straw, and Saint Nicholas has placed gifts instead. Carolers stand beside the nativity creche while they sing. Saint Nicholas rides through the streets and distributes nuts and sweets to the children.

In olden Russia, the day before Christmas was a fast day...no food tasted until the evening star appeared. Then fast ing ended, and car lers sang. In modern Russia little is left of this tradition and the day for gifts is New Year's Day.

## Christmas In Many Lands

In Yugoslavia, the entire family assembles bearing lighted candles while the head of the households prays. There is always a silver coin hidden in it. It is to bring good luck to the one who succeeds in getting it. Candles are placed in all the windows to guide the departed spirits who are said to wandered forth on the birthnight of Jesus.

In many lands a candle is left burning all through the night before Christmas, to guide the Christ-child, because it is believed the baby Christ comes back each Christmas to help the needy.

From CHRISTMAS IDEALS 1950.

## CHRISTMAS IN BETHLEHEM

There are some shepherds living in the same part of the country, keeping guard throughout the night over their flock in the open fields. Suddenly an angel of the Lord stood by their side; the splendour of the Lord blazed around them, and they were terror-stricken. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! Listen, I bring you glorious news of great joy which is for every man. This very day, in David's town, a Saviour has been born for you. He is Christ, the Lord. Let this prove it to you: you will find a baby, wrapped up and lying in a manger.

And in a flash there appeared with the angel a vast host of the armies of Heaven! praising God, saying, "Glory be to God in the highest Heaven! Peace upon earth to men whom He loves!"

When the angels left them and went back into Heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Now let us go straight to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has told us about."

So they came as fast as they could and they found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. And when they had seen it, they told everybody what they had been told about the child. And those who heard them were amazed at what the shepherds said. But Mary treasured all these things and turned them over in her mind. The shepherds went back to work, glorifying and praising God for everything that they had heard and seen, which had happened as they had been told.

Luke 2:8-20 from a Translation

By J. B. Phillips.





